

Message Text

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42

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SP-02 /038 W

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R 160814Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 192

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6510

PLEASE PASS LABOR DEPARTMENT FOR PERSONS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO JA

SUBJ: A JAPANESE AS ILO ASSISTANT DG?

1. KAZUO FRANCIS YOSHIMURA, PERENNIAL JAPANESE EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVE TO ILO, INFORMED LABATT APR 16 THAT ILO DG BLANCHARD HAS OFFERED HIM POSITION AS ASSISTANT DG FOR ASIA. BLANCHARD'S RATIONALE, AS YOSHIMURA EXPLAINED IT, WAS THAT ILO NEEDED A JAPANESE EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVE COMBINATION: A JAPANESE BECAUSE JAPAN WAS NOT ONLY AN ASIAN COUNTRY BUT HAD ACHIEVED ITS LEADERSHIP POSITION AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS THROUGH STRONG LABOR-MANAGEMENT COOPERATION; AND AN ADG FROM THE EMPLOYERS TO BALANCE OFF BERTIL BOLIN ON BLANCHARD'S STAFF WHO COMES FROM THE LABOR SIDE (SWEDISH LO).

2. COMPLICATIONS AROSE WHEN GOJ REPRESENTATIVES TOLD BLANCHARD THAT GOJ HAD ANOTHER CANDIDATE, RETIRED LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL SEIJI KUDO. BLANCHARD SAID KUDO WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE. BESIDES BEING WITHIN THREE YEARS OF MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE, THE ILO REQUIRED MAN FROM THE EMPLOYER SIDE NOT FROM GOVERNMENT. IF A JAPANESE WITH BOTH THESE QUALIFICATIONS COULD NOT BE FOUND, ACCORDING TO YOSHIMURA, BLANCHARD WOULD SEEK AN EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE FROM ANOTHER ASIAN COUNTRY, PROBABLY MALAYSIA OR SINGAPORE. YOSHIMURA REPORTS THAT WHILE GOJ MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS APPRECIATES BLANCHARD'S IDEA AND TENDS TO

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SUPPORT IT AS THE ONLY WAY TO GET A JAPANESE INTO AN ILO POLICY

SLOT, GOJ MINISTRY OF LABOR CONTINUES TO SUPPORT KUDO.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD BE IN US INTERESTS TO HAVE A JAPANESE IN KEY ILO POSITION. YOSHIMURA APPEARS TO HAVE UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS IN THAT NOT ONLY IS HE FAMILIAR WITH ILO OPERATIONS HAVING WORKED FOR YEARS WITH THE GOVERNING BODY, BUT HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH. JAPAN EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION (NIKKEIREN) IS SUPPORTING HIS CANDIDACY. BUT WITHOUT GOJ SUPPORT AS WELL HE PROBABLY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE POSITION. IF DEPT ASCERTAINS FACTS ARE AS YOSHIMURA REPORTED, IT MAY WISH TO CONTACT JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND/OR GENEVA TO REITERATE THAT IF JAPAN DOES WANT ITS MAN AS ADG FOR ASIA, THAT MAN MUST BE FROM EMPLOYERS' SIDE.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING CHAIRMAN, LABOR, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO06510
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750172-0775
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750542/aaaabmlw.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A JAPANESE AS ILO ASSISTANT DG?
TAGS: ELAB, JA, ILO, (YOSHIMURA, KAZUO FRANCIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006